

SBI resumes work with full agenda

Durban, 30 Nov (Chee Yoke Ling) – Developing countries set out their expectations for the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol with least developed countries expressing frustration again at the lack of support for their needs at the opening session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) on 29 November.

The Group of 77 and China voiced concern over the increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Annex 1 (developed country) Parties as revealed in their national communications submitted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Group called for a decision in Durban for Annex I Parties to intensify their efforts aimed at reducing their GHG emissions.

Least developed countries in their general statement as well as in discussion on national adaptation plans were vocal in their disappointment and frustration at the lack of financial contributions from Annex 1 Parties to the various funds under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. They were particularly critical of the Global Environment Facility's procedures and requirements as delaying the implementation of their urgent and immediate needs.

Uganda on behalf of LDCs said that these countries are getting disappointed and depressed and that the co-financing requirement of the GEF has again and again been an obstacle for implementing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs).

[NAPAs provide a process for LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their **urgent** and **immediate** needs to adapt to climate change – those for which further delay would increase vulnerability and/or costs at a later stage. For a number of years many LDCs that have undergone the process have repeatedly expressed deep frustration at the obstacles and delay in accessing the required funds from the GEF.]

Argentina on behalf of G77 and China said that according to the Compilation and Synthesis of fifth national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, over the period 1990-2008, the total aggregate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Annex I Parties that are not economies in transition, excluding LULUCF (land use, land use change and forestry), increased by 8%. Moreover, according to projected data, the GHG emissions of Annex I Parties, excluding emissions and removals from the LULUCF sector are expected to increase by 7.8 %, between 2010-2020.

It said that the Group continues to be very concerned about the facts and the trend contained in the report prepared for the current SBI meeting (FCCC/SBI/2011/INF.1, Add 1 and Add. 2). It expects the decision adopted by the COP on this matter to reflect a strong call to Annex I Parties to intensify their efforts aimed at reducing their GHG emissions in accordance with the principles and provisions, the objective of the Convention and their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Citing the report that "many data gaps and inconsistencies in reporting approaches among Annex II countries and across periods still persist", the Group urge Annex I Parties first, to provide detailed information or make available in their national communications the level of improvement in emissions reductions, or lack thereof.

Argentina said that in this sense, it is important to maintain and strengthen Annual reports on the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention as well as the monitor, report and evaluation of their domestic mitigation action.

It also said that as repeatedly stated in the synthesis of Annex I communications, standard formats of reporting on the provision of financial resources,

including for transfer of technology and adaptation should be utilized in fulfillment of obligations under Article 12.3 of the Convention. Therefore, a COP decision under this agenda item must take all these elements on board.

Argentina further said that at a time when more and more responsibilities on reporting are placed on developing country Parties, it is incumbent on developed country Parties who have the obligation to provide financial resources at agreed full costs basis to developing country Parties, to clarify whether they are meeting their commitments under the Convention related to financing.

The Group also called on Parties included in Annex II of the Convention to intensify their efforts aimed at fulfilling their commitments on the provision of financial resources, enhancing technology development and transfer, meeting costs of adaptation, and strengthening capacity building in developing country Parties in accordance with article 4, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the Convention. To this end, the accuracy, comparability and level of detail of information regarding the provision of support of financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity building reported in National Communications of Annex II Parties must be further defined and enhanced.

Argentina said that the conclusions forwarded by the SBI to COP must include the above mentioned elements for adoption by this COP.

On developing countries' obligations, the G77 and China said that the Cancun decisions contain additional reporting obligations for developing countries, as well as provisions on more frequent timelines for the submission of reports, which represent an added burden to the difficulties faced by developing country parties in terms of lack of technical and financial support when it comes to prepare their national communications.

The Group stressed that paragraph 60 (c) of Decision 1/CP.16 clearly establishes a link between the level of support provided and the submission of biennial reports by developing countries. Therefore, it requires specific technical and technological inputs, as well as increased human and institutional capacities.

Regarding the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I (developing country) Parties, it said that predictability of funding and the provision of the agreed full costs is also to

be met. Unfortunately, we are currently faced with a situation where national communications are subject to limited allocations and other conditions, said Argentina.

On financing adaptation, the Group reiterated it call for more contributions to the funds devoted to adaptation under the Convention, in particular the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol.

It said that not only are these funds hugely underfunded, and most of them dependent on voluntary funding, they are also the only main sources of financing adaptation under the Convention.

The Group insists that conditions attached to the allocation and use of the funds that are managed through the Global Environment Facility as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention should not be applied to these funds, in particular the requirement of co-financing prior to accessing funding.

It also reiterated its position that adaptation efforts must be treated in an equal manner as mitigation. Adaptation has historically been underfunded, a situation that must be reversed.

The Group said it will continue to insist firmly on a balanced allocation of resources for adaptation, including for the design and capitalization of the Green Climate Fund, as well as direct access as operationalized in the Adaptation Fund, which are fundamental principles of the Group.

On National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the G77 and China expects a successful outcome for a clear and well-supported LDC (least developed country) process for the formulation and implementation of, including on the modalities and guidelines that may be employed by other particularly vulnerable developing countries.

It said that COP must also agree on the necessary institutional linkages to support this process, stressing the important role that the Adaptation Committee and the LDC Expert Group should have in the preparation and implementation of NAPs.

It added that NAPs, without the adequate means of implementation, create new responsibilities for developing countries and we need to make progress to ensure that the formulation and the

implementation of NAPS is not an additional burden, but an implementation-driven process to respond to climate change.

On loss and damage the Group considers this as one of the key aspects to advance the implementation of adaptation in order to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change in developing countries. It welcomed the progress made since the establishment of the Work Program on Loss and Damage at COP 16 (in Cancun in 2010) and looks forward to further advance in this important issue in Durban with a view to making recommendations on loss and damage to the COP 18 in 2012.

On the activities to be undertaken by the Work Programme on Loss and Damage, the Group reaffirms the need to strengthen international cooperation, to enhance knowledge and capacity directed to reduce adverse effects of climate change, and to provide support for its implementation.

On the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures, the G77 and China said it will engage constructively at the SBI and SBSTA with the objective of developing a work programme under the two Subsidiary Bodies to address these impacts, and to adopt at the COP 17 modalities for the operationalization of the work programme and a forum on response measures.

It stressed that there is also a mandate to continuing discussions in the AWG-LCA (Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention) on all the elements of economic and social consequences of response measures, in order to establish the political parameters that are required to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries in relation to this issue.

On the Technology Executive Committee that had its first and only meeting so far, the Group expects that next year the TEC can meet as often as necessary and have enough time and resources to develop and implement a program of work that fulfils its functions as were adopted by the COP in Cancun.

It reiterated the necessity of enabling the active participation of Palestine in the UNFCCC process and to make every effort to grant Palestine access to funding from sources of climate financing.

The **Gambia for Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** stressed the need for a COP decision on national adaptation plans (NAPs). It said that at

least \$3 billion is needed for NAPs implementation and called on Annex 1 Parties to contribute to the LDC Fund.

Strong criticism was expressed over the GEF for “dictating” which implementing agency should be used to channel adaptation funds, and for requiring co-financing that Gambia said is inappropriate for NAPA activities and therefore there is a need to remove this requirement.

Gambia also said that there must be an SBI decision to support capacity building.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** for the **Africa Group** said the Group awaits a robust decision on NAPs that elaborates on the modalities and guidelines on implementing adaptation plans, hoping to see implementation as early as next year.

It said there is need particularly to review the financial support for NAPs of developing countries stressing the importance of direct access and support in the form of grants in line with the needs of developing countries. It also said there is need to elaborate on guidelines for the GEF especially to make funds available and that Annex 1 Parties must provide financing as committed under the Convention.

A programme on capacity building on adaptation and mitigation was emphasised to be of special interest to the Group.

Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) reiterated that time is running out and called for the SBI to work with a greater sense of urgency than before. It prioritized the following three areas: work on loss and damage including full establishment of an institutional mechanism; enhanced financial and technological support for capacity building and to bring to a closure in Durban the second comprehensive review of capacity building (under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol); work on national communications of Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 Parties, and on MRV.

It said that there is a strong overlap between the work of the AWG-LCA and SBI, and there should be avoidance of duplication. Grenada also said that Parties should not use the SBI as a place to throw issues of difficulty in the AWG-LCA, and that the SBI should be allowed to do its work.

El Salvador on behalf of SICA countries (Central American Integration System) supported the work on LDCs, and said that Parties must ensure that modalities and guidelines for NAPs meet the needs of developing countries and be clear, simple and useful. It also said that the loss and damage mechanism should start in COP 18 (2012).

The **European Union** said that the challenge is to prepare the ground for the new regime that includes MRV, technology and financing with special consideration for meaningful actions in capacity building. It stressed that it is respecting its commitments under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol, including for financing. It hoped that Durban can conclude as much as possible the Bali Action Plan and Cancun agreements, and reiterated its call for a Durban Roadmap to a legally binding framework under the AWG-LCA.

Australia on behalf of the Umbrella Group said the SBI has a vital role for the work set in Cancun and Parties should consider how the two Subsidiary Bodies could take on Cancun work to implement the Convention.

The SBI Chair Robert Owen-Jones (Australia) expressed hope that the Durban session will conclude on Saturday (3 December) with a strong package of decisions.

The SBI session in Durban will produce draft conclusions and draft decisions for adoption by the COP next week including in the following areas: national communications and GHG inventory from Annex 1 Parties; national communications from non-Annex 1 Parties; national adaptation plans; financial mechanism of the UNFCCC (operated by the Global Environment Facility); approaches to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity; development and transfer of technologies; capacity building under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol; amendment of the Kyoto Protocol regarding its compliance procedures and mechanisms; impact of implementation of response measures; and administration, financial and institutional matters.

Work will be take place in contact groups and informal consultations.